

Public Health Matters



October—December, 2007

Points of interest:

- During 2007, the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers participated in many training's, exercises, and public education and emergency preparedness events. The total hours of participation was 2,100 hours.
- A vaccination drill will be held on Saturday, 2/9/08, from 11am - 3pm, during Winterfest in Lake Havasu. Come help us and Lake Havasu Fire test our capabilities to vaccinate 2500 people and get a free flu shot!

Flu Clinics Provide Opportunity to Practice Emergency Response Plans

This year's flu and pneumonia vaccination clinics were seen as an opportunity for the MCDPH to practice our mass vaccination clinics and incident command. Clinics were held in Kingman, Bullhead, and Lake Havasu during October with 1449 flu vaccinations and 392 pneumonia vaccinations administered. The MCDPH mobile command center was deployed to the Bullhead and Kingman clinics for staff to become familiar with it's operation. KFLG Radio held a live remote at the Bullhead clinic to get walk-in traffic through the lunch hour and into the afternoon. Nursing students from Mohave Community College assisted in administering the vaccinations. The MCDPH Medical Reserve Corps was also called on to augment our staff to ensure the clinics ran smoothly.



Statistical Analysis from the Lake Havasu provided the following information:

- 358 individuals received the flu shot
- 78.8% had an appointment & 21.2% were walk-ins
- 73.2% of those with appointments kept their appointment - 26.8% were no-shows
- 94.7% of those keeping their appointments arrived early:
 - ⇒ Average minutes early = 16
 - ⇒ Mean time spent in clinic = 14
 - ⇒ Median time spent in clinic = 13

Other flu clinics were also held throughout the county - approximately 3,500 flu vaccinations have been distributed to date.



Inside this issue:

Meet the Grim Reaper	2
Clean Up Success	2
Health Fairs	3
TB Investigations	3
KRMC QUITZone	3
Meningitis Shot Day	4
MRC - CERT Reception Center Exercise	4
Senior Program's Menu Changes	4

Meet the Grim Reaper

The Grim Reaper paid a visit to Kingman's Wal-Mart on Halloween evening; handing out pencils, stickers and tobacco education material to children and their parents. Instead of a scythe, the Reaper carried a cancer stick labeled "lung cancer" to remind everyone of the dangers of cigarette smoking.



Wal-Mart sponsored the Trick or Treat Night with the idea that keeping children out of the streets would be safer than if they were trick or treating from door to door. Many local groups participated, including the MCDPH Tobacco Use Prevention Program and the Mohave Anti-Meth Coalition. Wal-Mart provided display space for participating groups who decorated each space with their unique message and gave out educational materials along with Halloween candy.



Clean Up a Success



Before



After

"When it comes to investigating complaints, we are there for the benefit of the neighborhood and the people who live at the site. If a public health nuisance is there, we want to get it cleaned up."

Rachel Patterson
Environmental Health
Manager

The Environmental Health Division's efforts were a success in getting a Butler property cleaned up. The initial complaint was received in April, 2006 regarding raw sewage and trash. An inspection validated the complaint and water to the property was shut off due to the sewage problem. Since the septic system was in failure, the water wasn't allowed to be turned back on. Greg Guindon was the inspector for this complaint and attempted to work with the renters of the property to get the trash cleaned up. Although promising to comply, they continued to live on the property without water while they piled up more garbage. On a repeat visit to talk to them about failing to comply with the clean up order, Greg found the renters had moved. Dolores Milkie of the County Attorney's Office attempted to contact the owner of the property as they are ultimately responsible. The owner had to be contacted through publication and

failed to show in court. A lien was placed on the property to pay for the fine and the cost of cleanup. Rachel Patterson, EH Manager, explained that they worked with the tenants for some time and they then abandoned the property. This situation took longer than normal as tracking down the owner of the property was a problem. The trash was removed from the property in November, 2007 and the lien placed in December. This is the fourth such cleanup Environmental Health has handled this year. The Board of Supervisors approved \$20,000 in this year's budget for cleanup operations. This money is designed to be a revolving fund with the money replaced when the liens get paid and the money returns to the account. This cleanup cost approximately \$1,900 and wouldn't have been accomplished without the Board's action to provide the initial funding.

Health Fairs

Public Health Nursing staff participated in a number of health fairs throughout the county during this quarter.

Kiwanis Kid's Day

Immunization staff reviewed approximately 300 childhood immunization records and vaccinated kids who required additional doses of vaccine. Other Nursing staff provided program information and distributed emergency preparedness bags to encourage personal and family preparedness.

Women's Health Fair

Kingman Regional Medical Center held a Women's Health Fair. Information was distributed regarding breast cancer awareness, Reproductive Health Programs, and communicable disease prevention (specifically Sexually Transmitted Disease and HIV). A questionnaire on teen pregnancy was also issued with valuable feedback with regard to prevention strategies.

Adult Health Fair

The Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce held an Adult Health Fair. Flu and Pneumonia vaccinations were offered with approximately 60 people receiving vaccinations. Health prevention information was provided specifically targeting HIV and STDs. Information was also distributed regarding our STD, Reproductive Health, Ryan White and Communicable Disease programs.

“ Health fairs offer an excellent opportunity for us to provide education and information on our programs to the public.”

Patty Mead
Health Director

Tuberculosis Investigations

The Public Health Nursing communicable disease team continues to work on two large-scale Tuberculosis (TB) investigations in Lake Havasu City. A large number of people have been screened for potential exposure to TB with several groups being identified as actually exposed. The investigation team continues to provide TB education, evaluation, and implement disease control activities.

TB is a bacteria that is transmitted from person to person through the air. The bacteria are propelled

into the air when a person with active TB disease coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings. These germs can remain in the air for several hours. Persons who breath in the air containing these germs can become infected. Symptoms of TB disease include weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats as well as a productive cough if the bacteria has affected the lungs. For additional information on TB, contact the Nursing Department at 928-753-0714 or visit the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/tb

KRMC “QUITZone”

McTUPP staff worked with and nominated Kingman Regional Medical Center (KRMC) for status as a "QUITZone" with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), honoring their dedication to the health of the people of Mohave County. ADHS Bureau of Tobacco Education & Prevention presented KRMC with a Certificate of Excellence in December for its work in making its hospital tobacco-free and for encouraging others to quit using tobacco. TRUST commission member Dr. Michael Nayeri and Bureau of Tobacco Education Prevention Statewide Program Manager Leslie Walker presented the award.



**MOHAVE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

700 W. Beale Street
PO Box 7000
Kingman, AZ

2001 College Drive
Lake Havasu City, AZ

1222 & 1130 Hancock Road
Bullhead City, AZ

Main Phone Line 928-753-0743

**We're on the web:
www.HealthELinks.com**

Edited by Jennifer McNally



Meningitis Shot Day

The Lake Havasu High School Student Government contacted our Nursing division as they decided to do a club project to get students in their school vaccinated against Meningitis. The club researched the disease and the vaccine and requested us to hold a vaccination clinic at the school in December. Since the school has approximately 2000 students, they decided to focus first on the 11th and 12th graders.

The club educated themselves on the vaccine and the disease so they could answer questions and actively recruit students to get vaccinated. They purchased a video from the National Meningitis Foundation and conducted educational modules with staff and students prior to sending out consent forms. Our nursing division provided them with the vaccine information sheet, the immunization administration record, the patient information screening form, and our HIPAA policy. They made copies of the forms, put together packets, and sent them home to over 700 students. The club members collected the forms and set up everything needed for the clinic.

The club requested a five dollar donation from each student getting vaccinated and in return the student received a bracelet that said "Meningitis Awareness, NMAUS.ORG" that was received from the National Meningitis Foundation. The money collected will be donated to the National Meningitis Foundation.

There was a total of 103 students vaccinated during the clinic. A second clinic is planned for the Spring of 2008 to target the 9th and 10th grade students along with any of the older students that did not get vaccinated during the first clinic.

MRC - CERT Reception Center Exercise

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Lake Havasu City conducted a full scale exercise to set up a reception center. Prior to the exercise, the procedures and process to set up a reception center for victims of an emergency or incident were reviewed. Simulated victims were processed through the facility and staff demobilization and facility deactivation was completed. The exercise had a great turn out from the Lake Havasu volunteers (20 MRC and 30 CERT members) as well as one BHC MRC volunteer and the MRC volunteer coordinator. This joint exercise strengthened the working relationship between both citizen corps organizations.



New Menus at Senior Centers

Senior Programs worked with the Western Arizona Council of Governments to develop new menus for the Senior Nutrition Centers. The menus were approved in October and will be implemented in 2008. Significant changes were made to include more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans and legumes. While the new menus will provide healthier meals, it also means an increase in costs. Senior Programs is working to raise funds to help cover the increased costs of this menu.